Table of Contents:

PAGE 2
Construction Photo/Update

PAGE 2
Business Spotlight

PAGE 3
Purple Line Fast Fact

PAGE 3
People Behind Purple Line

PULSE

Your guide to Purple Line news, information and events

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Message from Matt

Matthew Pollack, PE, PMP

Last month, our concessionaire, Purple Line Transit Partners, (PLTP), announced their recommendation for a new design-builder. That public announcement represented a significant milestone for the Purple Line project and was greeted with much enthusiasm by our partners and supporters.

We are excited to be going before the state Board of Public Works soon with that recommendation, which will include a schedule for resuming full-scale construction and, most importantly, a projected date for starting revenue service.

In October, I attended the groundbreaking event for Crescent at Chevy Chase - the new apartment development expected to open in 2023 that will create housing opportunities and transform the lives of more than 100 families in the Connecticut Avenue corridor. During the event I spoke about Transit Oriented Development (TOD), which supports the creation of compact, walkable, communities connected to high quality rail systems like the Purple Line. I also noted how TODs can protect environmental and land resources, and support growth without adding to traffic congestion.

Looking at nearby Connecticut Avenue, I could envision the vital role the Purple Line will play in just a few years in contributing to the success of this new apartment development and helping to create a vibrant, pedestrian- and bike-friendly community.

The next round of Community Advisory Team (CAT) meetings will be held in the spring, instead of this fall as we originally planned, so that we can provide the most current project information and construction updates.

This is truly an exciting time for the Purple Line project as we continue to move this critical transit project forward.

The Purple Line Team wishes everyone a safe and happy holiday season.

Matt

Sign up to receive construction notifications at purplelinemd.com

Construction Photo/Update:

Photos clockwise from left: A Purple Line worker from Anchor Construction helps with utility work near the Baltimore-Washington Parkway; above left: A Purple Line worker applies finishing touches to a retaining wall on Campus Drive in College Park; above right: A Purple Line worker does surveying at the Glenridge facility; bottom left: A Purple Line worker prepares to flip a switch as workers establish permanent power at the Glenridge Operations and Maintenance Facility, which will be the hub of light rail operations.

Business Spotlight: A Local Go-To

Mike Bailey grew up in barber shops - sweeping floors and running errands for his family. His sisters and an aunt all were stylists, and they helped imprint a desire in him to be creative and dedicated to serving the community.

At age 15, Mike picked up his first clippers and started cutting his cousins' hair. The passion and drive grew, and he opened Ebony Barbers Unisex, Inc. in 1993. Originally located at 916 Ellsworth Drive, in Silver Spring, Ebony Barbers relocated to Bonifant Street in 1995 and has served the Silver Spring community as one of the early barber shops in the neighborhood.

In business for nearly 30 years, Ebony Barbers Unisex is prepared to become a staple on the Purple Line corridor. It is one of more than 700 businesses adjacent to the 16.2.-mile line.

Bailey, who cannot imagine a life without cutting hair, looks forward to serving commuters and others.

You can visit Ebony Barbers Unisex at 936 Bonifant St. in Silver Spring or visit their website to make an appointment at ebonybarbers.com.

To learn about other businesses along the corridor, please visit: purplelinemd.com/business-engagement/business-spotlights.

Left: Ebony Barbers Unisex has been on Bonifant Street in Silver Spring since 1995. Right: Barber Mike Bailey cuts a customer's hair.

Purple Line Fast Fact:

People Behind the Purple Line: Roland Carroll

Meet Roland Carroll, the Purple Line's safety director for the Maryland Department of Transportation Maryland Transit Administration (MDOT MTA).

He is a mass transit veteran with 30 years of dedicated service to the State of Maryland. Starting his career as a bus driver in his hometown of Baltimore, he saw the importance of having a good team to keep a transportation system rolling.

Carroll decided he could do even more good by studying the challenges of safety and program management and becoming certified at the Transportation Safety Institute and Chesapeake Regional Safety Council. This move took his career to new heights. In 2020, he joined the Purple Line project as Director of Safety. He is responsible for the safety of construction workers in the field and staff in the office.

Carroll also puts a priority on public safety: "It's a partnership with the public, and we are careful to address their needs as well as the project's."

The safety effort is supported by a strong team of nine professionals with decades of experience. They go into the field every day to ensure the construction is completed safely and that crews are following codes set forth by the state and the federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

The diverse safety team includes trainers, certification experts, and engineers who conduct the entire program in English and Spanish.

Director of Safety is more than just a title for Carroll; it requires a lot of dedication -- and compassion.

"Our goal at the end of the day is to make sure everyone goes home to their family the same way they came in (and) to make sure everyone has a good work environment."

See Carroll here: youtube.com/watch?v=yNP51gl8ybc